

Executive Summary

In this annual report, *Idaho Traffic Collisions 2004*, the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Traffic and Highway Safety presents descriptive statistics about reportable traffic crashes, from those that result in property damage of at least \$751 to any one single piece of property to those that result in the loss of human life.

A summary of findings for 2004 are listed below:

- Idaho's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled reached an all time low of 1.75. Idaho's rate is still significantly higher than the National fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, which was estimated to be 1.48 in 2004.
- While the number of motor vehicle collisions increased by 6.1 percent to 28,332 in 2004, the number of fatalities resulting from motor vehicle collisions decreased to 260 from 293 in 2003, an 11 percent decrease.
- Almost 40 percent of the motor vehicle fatalities were the result of impaired driving. Of the 103 persons killed in impaired driving crashes, 87 percent were either the impaired driver, a person riding with an impaired driver, or an impaired pedestrian.
- Idaho's observed seat belt use reached an all time high of 74 percent in 2004. While the observed rate was 74 percent, only 42 percent of the motor vehicle occupants killed in collisions were wearing seat belts. If everyone had been wearing seat belts, 53 lives may have been saved.
- Aggressive driving was a contributing factor in 56 percent of the motor vehicle collisions in 2004 and was a factor in 45 percent of the resulting fatalities.
- Youthful drivers, ages 15 to 19, continue to be over-involved in motor vehicle crashes. In 2004, youthful drivers were involved in 2.4 times as many fatal and injury collisions as you would expected them to be and were 2.7 times as likely as all other drivers to be involved in a fatal and injury crash.
- There were 18 pedestrians and 3 bicyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2004.
- Collisions involving motorcycles continued to rise in 2004. Half of all motorcycle collisions involved a single motorcycle. There were 24 motorcyclists killed in motor vehicle collisions in 2004.
- While the number of collisions involving commercial motor vehicles increased 13 percent to 1,918 in 2004, the number of fatalities resulting from collisions with commercial motor vehicles decreased from 40 in 2003 to 31 in 2004.